

# **EXHIBIT J**

## Patents

## Article assembly 7,653,959



- > JP7653959B2—Lithium-ion battery separator
- > US7653959B1—Article assembly

## Article assembly

## Abstract

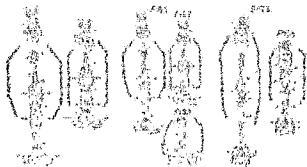
An assembly comprising a toothbrush having a first and second end. A stand in the shape of a pair of feet retains the brush in a vertical position when the stand is placed on a horizontal surface. For additional support, a base may be incorporated with the stand.

US7653959B1

United States

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## Images (3)



## Classifications

- » A46B5/02 Brush bodies; Handles integral with brushware specially shaped for holding by the hand

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## Landscapes

## Supports Or Holders For Household Use

## Brushes

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Inventor: David Catanzaro

Current Assignee: Individual

Worldwide applications

1996 US 2000 US

Application US09/505,791 events [②](#)

US case filed in Pennsylvania Middle District Court

2000-02-17 Application filed by Individual

2000-02-17 Priority to US09/505,791

2010-02-02 Application granted

2010-02-02 Publication of US7653959B1

2016-12-30 Anticipated expiration

Status Expired - Fee Related

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**Info:** Patent citations (20), Non-patent citations (2), Cited by (41), Legal events, Similar documents, Priority and Related Applications

**External links:** USPTO, USPTO PatentCenter, USPTO Assignment, Espacenet, Global Dossier, Discuss

## Claims (8)

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1. An article assembly comprising:

a) an article having a receivable end, and

b) a stand in the shape of first and second feet, each of said first and second feet being elongated to define a toe end and together a common heel end, said first and second feet being joined together and positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface, said heel end of each of said first and second feet being positioned together to form a single heel portion, said single heel portion including a recess extending through a topside thereof and towards a sole thereof for selectively receiving said receivable end of said article therein, thereby retaining said article when said stand is placed on a horizontal surface, said first and second feet each including a side surface, said side surfaces intersecting one another in a common plane.

2. The article assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a base connected to a bottom side of said stand.

3. The article assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein said base includes a recess extending therethrough and in alignment with said recess in said stand for additionally receiving said receivable end of said article therein.

4. The article assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said toe end of said first and second feet are at an acute angle to one another.

5. An article assembly comprising:

A stand in the shape of first and second feet, each of said first and second feet being elongated to define a toe end and together a common heel end, said first and second feet being joined together and positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface, said heel end of each of said first and second feet being positioned together to form a single heel portion, said single heel portion including a recess extending through a topside thereof and towards a sole thereof, said first and second feet including a side surface, said side surfaces intersecting one another in a common plane.

6. The article assembly as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a base connected to a bottom side of said stand.

7. The article assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein said base includes a recess extending therethrough and in alignment with said recess in said stand.

8. The article assembly as claimed in claim 5, wherein said toe end of said first and second feet are at an acute angle to one another.

**Description**

This application is a continuation of U.S. Utility Application 08/777,032, filed on Dec. 30, 1996, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,026,532. The earlier filing date of this application is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C 120.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****1. Field of the Invention**

This application claim benefit to provisional Application 60/009,323 Dec. 28, 1995.

The instant invention relates generally to toothbrushes, but may also find a useful application in other types of methods differing from the type described herein. More specifically it relates to an assembly which may contain a combination of appealing qualities.

**2. Description of the Prior Art**

There are various advantages in storing a toothbrush in an upright position, and numerous patents have disclosed holders or stands for retaining a toothbrush in a vertical position when placed on a horizontal surface. For instance, U.S. Pat. No. 5,444,889 (Barre) discloses a toothbrush assembly including a toothbrush and a stand for holding the brush. The stand includes a cup portion having a cavity within, wherein the brush handle can be inserted. A pair of legs separate and unattached to one another support and are connected to the cup portion. Further included is a foot for each leg, each foot being connected to the lower end of the leg opposite the cup portion. The feet are also separate and unattached from one another. U.S. Pat. Des. 369,932 and U.S. Pat. Des. 370,147 (Petronio) discloses a toothbrush holder in the shape of a torso having a front and rear portion. The front portion includes a recess extending therethrough, wherein a brush handle can be inserted. Further included, extending from the front portion, is a pair of feet which are separate and unattached from one another. A tail section extends from the rear portion. While these units may be suitable for the particular purpose to which they address, they would not be suitable for the purposes of the present invention as heretofore described.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

A first object of the present invention is to provide an assembly that will overcome the shortcomings of the prior art devices.

A second object is to provide an assembly, comprising a toothbrush having a first and second end, and a stand for receiving the second end of the brush handle therein, thereby retaining the handle in a vertical position when the stand is placed on a horizontal surface.

A third object is to provide an assembly, in which the stand is releasably connected to the toothbrush handle.

A forth object is to provide an assembly, in which the stand is a pair of feet which are positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface and a single heel portion, wherein the single heel portion includes a recess for selectively receiving the second end of the toothbrush handle therein.

A fifth object is to provide an article assembly, in which a base is connected to the bottom side of the foot stand for providing additional stability to the foot stand.

A sixth object is to provide an article assembly, in which the base includes a recess extending therethrough and in alignment with the recess in the foot stand for additionally receiving the receivable end of the article therein, for providing additional stability to the foot stand and article.

A seventh object is to provide an article assembly, that is simple and easy to use.

An eight object is to provide an article assembly, that is economical in cost to manufacture.

Further objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes may be made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the appended claims.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES**

FIG. 1 is a front exploded perspective view of the assembly according to the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a front exploded perspective view of the assembly according to the present invention showing a base for the stand.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**

With regard to FIGS. 1 and 2, the embodiment of the invention drawn shows an elongated handle 1 having a first end 2 a second end 3 and a first and second side. A stand 5 is in the shape of first and second feet 6 a and 6 b. Each first and second feet 6 a and 6 b, are elongated to define a toe end and together a common heel end. First and second feet 6 a and 6 b are joined together and positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface. The heel end of each first and second feet 6 a and 6 b, is positioned together to form a single heel portion 7. Single heel portion 7 includes a recess 8 extending through a top side thereof and towards a sole thereof for selectively receiving second end 3 of handle 1 therein, thereby retaining handle 1 in a vertical position when stand 5 is placed on a horizontal surface. First and second feet 6 a and 6 b each include a side surface, the side surfaces intersect one another in a common plane. The toe end of first and second feet 6 a and 6 b are at an acute angle to one another.

If desired, a base 9 could be connected to a bottom side of stand 5 as shown in FIG. 2. Base 9 may include a recess 10 extending therethrough and in alignment with recess 8 in stand 5 for additionally receiving second end 3 of handle 1 therein, to provide additional stability to handle 1 and stand 5.

It will be understood that each of the elements described above, or two together, may also find a useful application in other types of methods differing from the type described above.

While certain novel features of this invention have been shown and described are pointed out in the annexed claims, it is not intended to be limited to the details above, since it will be understood that various omissions, modifications, substitutions and changes in the forms and details of the device illustrated and in its operation can be made by those skilled in the art without departing in any way from the spirit of the present invention.

Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the gist of the present invention that others can, by applying current knowledge, readily adapt it for various applications without omitting features that, from the standpoint of prior art, fairly constitute essential characteristics of the generic aspects of this invention.

## Patent Citations (20)

Publication number	Priority date	Publication date	Assignee	Title
US2539035A*	1947-08-08	1951-01-23	Scanlon Dalton	Toothbrush holder for children
US3138813A*	1962-06-04	1964-06-30	Kaplan Ruth	Spring actuated vibrator
US3140762A*	1960-05-04	1964-07-14	Max M Schulte	Pipe, cigar and cigarette holder
USD279248S*	1983-12-27	1985-06-18	Oliver Gloria D	Toothbrush holder
US5269420A*	1993-01-12	1993-12-14	Zooth, Inc.	Toothbrush and holder assembly
US5353464A*	1990-05-04	1994-10-11	Atkins Marie B	Toothbrush construction
US5444889A*	1993-04-29	1995-08-29	Chesebrough-Pond's Usa Co., Division Of Conopco, Inc.	Toothbrush assembly
USD363166S*	1994-02-08	1995-10-17	Hasbro, Inc.	Toothbrush
USD369932S*	1995-02-01	1996-05-21	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Toothbrush holder
USD370147S*	1995-02-01	1996-05-28	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Toothbrush holder
USD370146S*	1995-02-01	1996-05-28	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Toothbrush holder
US5590436A*	1995-04-07	1997-01-07	Prelude Uk Limited	Toothbrush
US5675859A*	1995-06-07	1997-10-14	Chesebrough-Pond's Usa Co., Division Of Conopco, Inc.	Toothbrush assembly
USD388254S*	1996-07-03	1997-12-30	M+ C Schiffer GmbH	Child's toothbrush
USD392464S*	1996-04-10	1998-03-24	Smithkline Beecham Corporation	Toothbrush
USD395757S*	1995-11-04	1998-07-07	M & C Schiffer GmbH	Children's toothbrush
US6015328A*	1995-09-25	2000-01-18	Glaser, Robert	Toothbrush toy having interchangeable bendable and posable character handles
US6026532A*	1995-12-28	2000-02-22	Catanzaro, David	Toothbrush assembly
US6141615A*	1991-11-25	2000-11-07	Zooth, Inc.	Child's utensil

## Family To Family Citations

US1342521A*	1918-06-17	1920-06-08	Sakai Kako Celluloid Kwaisha L	Protected toothbrush
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\* Cited by examiner, † Cited by third party

## Non-Patent Citations (2)

## Title

Pictures of SALTON Inc. foot stand, stand includes a copyright mark of 1990.\*

Pictures of SALTON Inc. foot stand, stand was on sale in Mar. 1999.\*

\* Cited by examiner, † Cited by third party

## Cited By (41)

Publication number	Priority date	Publication date	Assignee	Title
US20080145826A1*	2006-12-14	2008-06-19	Cohen Jason C	Interactive hygiene training system
US11170674B1	2021-01-12	2021-11-09	Fourstar Group Inc.	Display arrangement having magnet that interacts with a coil to induce movement of the display arrangement

## Family To Family Citations

US6026532A*	1995-12-28	2000-02-22	Catanzaro, David	Toothbrush assembly
US6129090A*	1999-12-13	2000-10-10	Pillar, Charles Jay	Toothbrush storage cap with integral storage of dental floss

US6283627B1	2000-09-12	2001-09-04	Wayne G. Fromm	Drink mixer
USD453054S1	2001-05-08	2002-01-22	Hawthorn Enterprise Co., Ltd.	Cosmetic container
USD467432S1	2002-02-19	2002-12-24	Ranir/Dcp Corporation	Pump toothbrush
USD517324S1*	2002-03-04	2006-03-21	Church & Dwight Co., Inc.	Toothbrush
US7389781B2	2002-04-01	2008-06-24	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Toothbrush assembly
PL371627A1	2002-04-01	2005-06-27	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Toothbrush assembly
US20040187889A1	2002-04-01	2004-09-30	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Toothbrush assembly
US20030213075A1*	2002-05-14	2003-11-20	Fung Kut Hui	Powered toothbrush having a decorative facade
AU2003278900A1	2002-09-24	2004-04-19	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Toothbrush assembly
EP1575397A2*	2002-10-29	2005-09-21	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Powered toothbrush having a decorative sleeve
US20050058501A1*	2003-09-12	2005-03-17	Evans Brent L.	Disposable toothpaste dispensing toothbrush
US7213709B2*	2004-07-20	2007-05-08	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Easy open package
US20060195999A1*	2005-03-04	2006-09-07	Gaboury Cynthia L	Vibrating toothbrush attachment
USD592403S1	2005-04-13	2009-05-19	Dr. Fresh, Inc.	Toothbrush
TWI373329B*	2005-07-26	2012-10-01	Colgate Palmolive Co	Toothbrush
US20070101946A1*	2005-11-08	2007-05-10	Barbara Penny	Dog Toy Toothbrush
USD556453S1*	2006-06-01	2007-12-04	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Toothbrush
USD588364S1*	2007-02-19	2009-03-17	Dr. Fresh, Inc.	Toothbrush with base
USD589261S1*	2007-04-12	2009-03-31	Dr. Fresh, Inc.	Toothbrush with base
USD607648S1	2007-04-12	2010-01-12	Dr. Fresh, Inc.	Toothbrush base
US8707504B2	2007-12-23	2014-04-29	Patrick Clarkson Ryan	Hygienic toothbrush and method of using same
USD697721S1	2012-09-28	2014-01-21	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Oral care implement
USD689699S1	2012-09-28	2013-09-17	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Oral care implement
USD693127S1	2012-09-28	2013-11-12	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Oral care implement
USD697719S1	2012-09-28	2014-01-21	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Oral care implement
USD748398S1*	2013-05-31	2016-02-02	Glaxo Group Limited	Travel cap
USD747882S1*	2013-05-31	2016-01-26	Glaxo Group Limited	Toothbrush
WO2015061651A1	2013-10-25	2015-04-30	Quip NYC Inc.	Toothbrush
US20150305483A1*	2014-04-24	2015-10-29	Megan Miller	Toothbrush with Palmar Grip Handle
USD776937S1	2015-07-23	2017-01-24	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Oral care implement
USD776436S1	2015-07-23	2017-01-17	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Oral care implement
USD809116S1	2015-11-02	2018-01-30	Pura Scents	Dispenser
USD816506S1	2015-11-02	2018-05-01	Pura Scents, Inc.	Vial for a scent dispenser
US9827343B2	2015-11-02	2017-11-28	Pura Scents, Inc.	Scent dispensation and fluid level sensing

CN111902101B	2018-01-31	2023-04-18	奎珀纽约有限公司	Toothbrush system
US11297933B2 *	2018-08-03	2022-04-12	Colgate-Palmolive Company	Powered oral care implement including a tracking module and tracking module thereof
US20230112026A1 *	2021-10-07	2023-04-13	Douglas Scott Polack	Animal massager

\* Cited by examiner, † Cited by third party, ‡ Family to family citation

#### Similar Documents

Publication	Publication Date	Title
US7653959B1	2010-02-02	Article assembly
USD443836S1	2001-06-19	Measuring spoon set
USD464793S1	2002-10-29	Article holder with side clip
USD495383S1	2004-08-31	Adjustable dumbbell holder stand
USD426061S	2000-06-06	Wrench socket tray
USD425950S	2000-05-30	Adjustable dumbbell holder stand
USD429295S	2000-08-08	Fixed dumbbell holder stand
USD421898S	2000-03-28	Bag and beverage cup holder
USD366282S	1996-01-16	Pencil holding clip
US2972417A	1961-02-21	Bar accessory
USD461858S1	2002-08-20	Amusement device
USD443660S1	2001-06-12	Rear entry adjustable dumbbell holder stand
USD504483S1	2005-04-26	Holder for golf ball and accessory
USD406984S	1999-03-23	Combined set of unitary wire handles/legs for a chafing stand
USD427500S	2000-07-04	Support base for holding sharpening stones
USD459026S1	2002-06-18	Shoe cream applicator cover
USD455252S1	2002-04-09	Shoe and boot support stand for use during polishing
USD420408S	2000-02-08	Weight bench neck support
USD387807S	1997-12-16	Adjustable magazine holder
USD447387S1	2001-09-04	Tabletop condiment holder
US3627394A	1971-12-14	Cup holder
US6237880B1	2001-05-29	Mop Stand
US2655338A	1953-10-13	Tissue package holder
USD446948S1	2001-08-28	Multiple purpose pole stand
USD413456S	1999-09-07	Shoes support stand

#### Priority And Related Applications

##### Parent Applications (1)

Application	Priority date	Filing date	Relation	Title
US08/777,032	1995-12-28	1996-12-30	Continuation	Toothbrush assembly

##### Priority Applications (1)

Application	Priority date	Filing date	Title

US09/505,791

1996-12-30

2000-02-17

Article assembly

**Applications Claiming Priority (2)**

Application	Filing date	Title
US08/777,032	1996-12-30	Toothbrush assembly
US09/505,791	2000-02-17	Article assembly

**Legal Events**

Date	Code	Title	Description
2010-05-18	CC	Certificate of correction	
2012-12-08	FEPP	Fee payment procedure	Free format text: PATENT HOLDER CLAIMS MICRO ENTITY STATUS, ENTITY STATUS SET TO MICRO (ORIGINAL EVENT CODE: STOM); ENTITY STATUS OF PATENT OWNER: MICROENTITY
2013-08-02	FPAY	Fee payment	Year of fee payment: 4
2017-09-18	FEPP	Fee payment procedure	Free format text: MAINTENANCE FEE REMINDER MAILED (ORIGINAL EVENT CODE: REM.)
2018-03-05	LAPS	Lapse for failure to pay maintenance fees	Free format text: PATENT EXPIRED FOR FAILURE TO PAY MAINTENANCE FEES (ORIGINAL EVENT CODE: EXP.)
2018-03-05	STCH	Information on status: patent discontinuation	Free format text: PATENT EXPIRED DUE TO NONPAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEES UNDER 37 CFR 1.362
2018-03-27	FP	Lapsed due to failure to pay maintenance fee	Effective date: 20180202

**Concepts**

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